

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action mailed April 9, 2003 (Paper No. 5). Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 5-14 are now pending in the application, with Claims 5 and 10 being the independent claims. Claims 1-4 have been canceled and Claims 5-10 are newly presented herein. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to as allegedly failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5), because the reference numeral 19 is included in the drawings but not in the specification, and because the reference numeral 16 is included in the specification but is allegedly not in the drawings. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to recite the reference numeral 19. With regard to reference numeral 16, Applicant wishes to point out that FIG. 3 includes reference numeral 16, which is used to designate the dashpot illustrated therein.

Applicant submits that the drawings fully comply with all the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.84, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objections is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1, 3, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,315,094 (Griffin et al). This rejection is respectfully traversed, at least in light of the above amendments.

Independent Claim 5 relates to a tuned mass damper that includes a mass having predetermined inertia properties, and a plurality of isolators arranged in a hexapod configuration that are coupled to the mass and adapted to couple to a structure that may experience vibrations in six degrees of freedom, and recites, *inter alia*, wherein each of the isolators, in combination with the mass, is individually tuned to reduce the vibrations experienced by the structure.

Independent Claim 10 relates to a system that includes a structure that experiences vibrations in six degrees of freedom and a tuned mass damper. The tuned mass damper includes a mass having predetermined inertia properties, and a plurality of isolators arranged in a hexapod

configuration that are coupled to the mass and adapted to couple to a structure that may experience vibrations in six degrees of freedom, and independent Claim 10 also recites, *inter alia*, wherein each of the isolators, in combination with the mass, is individually tuned to reduce the vibrations experienced by the structure.

Griffin et al. relates to a passive skyhook-type vibration isolation system, and discloses use of a hexapod type suspension for a secondary mass, which is in turn coupled to a primary mass that is suspended by a primary suspension. Although Griffin et al. does disclose tuning of the secondary system, it does not disclose at least the above noted feature of independent Claims 5 and 10. Namely, Griffin et al. fails to disclose (or even remotely suggest) that each of the isolators, in combination with the mass, is individually tuned to reduce the vibrations experienced by the structure, as recited in independent Claims 5 and 10. Rather, Griffin et al. discloses that the entire secondary suspension is tuned to the primary mass's resonant frequency (col. 8, ll. 21-22).

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully solicit reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Griffin et al., and U.S. Patent No. 6,022,005 (Gran et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 has been canceled; however, newly-presented Claims 9 and 14 each recite structure similar in scope to that which was recited in Claim 2. It is submitted, however, that Gran et al. does not make up for at least the above-noted deficiency of independent Claims 5 and 10, from which Claims 9 and 14 depend, respectively. Namely, Gran et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least that each of the isolators, in combination with the mass, is individually tuned to reduce the vibrations experienced by the structure, as recited in independent Claims 5 and 10.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the § 103 rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 5 and 10 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the reasons given above

with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Hence, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

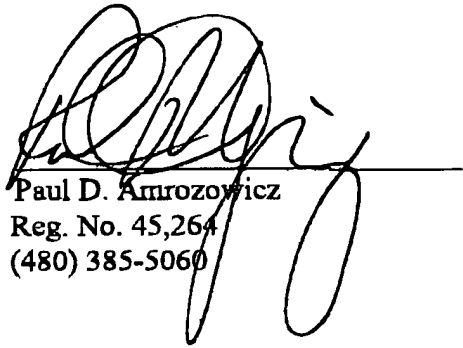
If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 29, 2003

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